

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S Newsletter

November, 2014
Volume 14, Issue 11



SBARA Presidents Message November 2014

As Halloween and Daylight savings time pass, it becomes quickly evident that another year has flown past and the end is near. Remember when you were a kid and a year seemed like an eternity. It seems as we age that the blink of a year gets shorter and shorter. We go from, "A year? That's such a lonnnnnnnngggggggg time." to "It's only a year!"

Looking back, we enjoyed our usual annual events such as the Primavera Century, Field Day, the Hayward Zucchini Festival, and Pacificon. I hear Pacificon will be back in San Ramon next year. Rumor has it that it has something to do with the new Levi Stadium that was built near the Marriott in Santa Clara and increased prices. We also enjoyed a variety of speakers at our monthly membership meetings. Thanks to Deborah Patton, VP, and a few others, for topic/speaker ideas. Keep those ideas coming! Please contact the SBARA Board of Directors (BOD) if you have a topic that you would like to present or if you have a topic and/or speaker that you wish to suggest! [The *secret* word for a free raffle ticket at the November meeting is, "**election.**" Write this word on a piece of paper and hand it to Ray for a free raffle ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] As we look to 2015, the BOD hopes to continue to provide a variety of speakers and presentations as well as mix things up a bit. I believe it has been a very good year!

As this year comes to a close, there are other things ending. We just turned our clocks back an hour and there continues to be a debate as to whether this is still necessary. This is the last Groundplane Newsletter of the year. Thanks to Bill Artelt for continuing to edit it.

But most importantly...as the last SBARA membership meeting of the year approaches on November 14th...so does the election for the 2015 SBARA Board of Directors. There are four elected positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. There are also several appointed positions. (cont'd. on Page 2).



SBARA Board Elections are Friday, November 14th. Have you considered running for a position?

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Special Points of Interest

SDR Topics of Interest
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SBARA Board of Directors is a body of elected or appointed members who jointly oversee the activities of a Club or Organization. SBARA has a Board of Directors and like in the Past we the Membership hold Elections for the Four (4) positions. They include but not limited to; President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each position runs for a one (1) year Term and the individual can be re-elected. It is often simply referred to as "the board".

Presidents Message (cont'd. from Page 1)

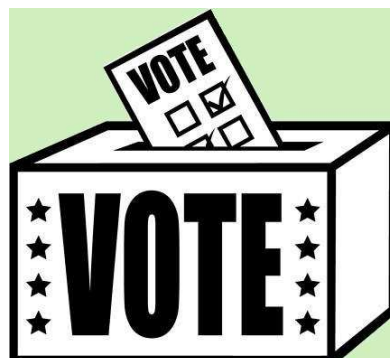
I encourage you to consider taking an active role in supporting your club by running for a position, nominating someone else for a position, or helping in other ways by attending the monthly BOD meetings and sharing your input or helping out at the membership meetings. The more people who are involved, the less work it is for each of the individuals! I know Ray has been "wearing multiple hats" this year and could use some help with the snacks/ refreshments and the raffle. It's only once a month and doesn't take THAT much effort. But it is important to share the load. This is a team effort! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

I have enjoyed being your president, for the past year, and intend to run again for next year. I thank the SBARA Board and you for your support!

Please attend the next SBARA membership meeting and vote for the 2015 slate!

It Is That Time Of Year Again

Ask any of the current SBARA board members and they will tell you that 2014 has gone by so fast. In November we will have elections for the 2015 Board elected positions, i.e., President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Steve Wilson KG6HJU has put his name in the 'hat' as a candidate for president in 2015. Steve has been a great leader and has done a wonderful job as this year's president. Traditionally, the board presents a slate of nominees and at the November meeting, nominations are accepted from the floor. If you are asked to fill a position by the **Board Nominating Committee**, please consider saying 'yes'.



SBARA Contest Corner

This year's CQ WW SSB contest took place on the weekend of October 25th and 26th. Here in our time zone it actually started on Friday afternoon. This contest is a worldwide DX contest with stations from all over the world on the air for all to contact. Propagation was very good for the contest so 10 meters was open. What that means is 'little' stations like most of us have can have fun working DX stations. Currently my station is limited to an all band High-Gain DX-88 vertical. Sound familiar? But even with a modest antenna I was able to work 150 DX stations on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Saturday afternoon I tuned across the 10 meters band and was amazed at the number of DX stations calling CQ. There were DX stations calling from 28.300 to over 29.000 MHz. I had never experienced this before. I operated as a single operator, assisted, high power. Assisted means that I was using a spotting network to help me pick out the stations I still had not worked. In addition to the vertical, my station consists of an Elecraft K3 and a KPA500 amplifier, running 400 watts on 10 meters. My results were modest by contesting standards but my goal was to work DX stations and that I did. My message is that a contest is a good time to get on the air and have fun working lots of stations.

de WT6K, AI



Search & Pounce

Don't hang around one band too long if you are not calling CQ. I treat the whole spectrum as continuous when I'm doing S&P at home. Start at the lowest band and go to the highest or vice versa. Check the band one lower or higher than you might expect - if it sounds closed, call CQ for a minute or two - you might create your own opening. A Big Contester had 60 QSOs on SS phone on 160M by going to an 'empty' band and calling CQ.

Search and Pounce rates are dependent upon: your Antenna, your Transmit Power, and Propagation. How many times do you have to call CQ? If no answer, do you push the "A=B" button and tune for the next guy? Use a Second Radio. Some Hams use two receivers to Listen and Line Up more QSOs.

Above all keep tuning - don't get hooked on listening to a rare dx station - it is just a contact, the longer you dwell the fewer contacts you will make on that weekend.... keep moving.

Contesting isn't easy....but it is very rewarding!

Meaning of a Ham

I always thought ham radio is exclusively adult guy geeks' domain until last weekend when I met a family of ham radio fans.

Their kids got their ham radio license when they were six years old. Wow.

Over 700,000 people throughout the United States are regularly involved with amateur radio and the many facets of the pastime.

Why is amateur radio called "ham radio"? ARRL (The National Association for Amateur Radio) explained: "*Ham*: a poor operator. A 'plug.'" Out of misunderstanding, amateur radio operators pick it up and wore it with pride.

Over the years, the original meaning of "ham" has completely disappeared.



VECs coordinate the efforts of **Volunteer Examiners** (VEs) in preparing and administering amateur service operator license **examinations**, coordinating VEC screens collected information, resolves all discrepancies, and forwards all required data to the FCC electronically. All VECs are authorized to coordinate examination sessions at any location an examination can be administered. A VEC, however, may choose to limit its area of operation to a particular geographical area.

To Become a VEC contact the **American Radio Relay League (ARRL)**
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494
P: 860-594-0300
F: 860-594-0339
E: vec@arrl.org



An Introduction to Software Defined Radio

An Introduction to Software Defined Radio

by Jeffrey Pawlan, WA6KBL a Distinguished Lecturer in the IEEE MTT Society

Date: Thursday, November 13

Location:

Building: Aristotle Room
Keysight (Agilent) Technologies
5301 Stevens Creek Boulevard
Santa Clara, California

Time: 06:00PM to 08:00PM (2.00 hours)

6:00 - 6:30pm, networking and snacks

6:30 - 8:00pm, presentation



Exams will be administered at
Hurricane Electric,
48233 Warm Springs Blvd.,
Fremont.

For questions regarding License Exams, please email **Greg** at wy6pradio@gmail.com \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Additional details in the License Exam Section on www.sbara.org Website.

Important!

Sat Nov 8, 2014, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Tue Dec 9, 2014, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

ARRL's Centennial Celebration Coming to a Close

As the ARRL's Centennial year comes to a close, so does the steady stream of "W1AW Portable" operations that have brought so many to the HF bands in 2014. Folks who probably didn't see themselves doing a lot of HF operating have found themselves watching propagation, building antennas, jumping into pileups and generally having a great time! This series of events, shining a spotlight around the continent and out into the Pacific and Caribbean, has been one of the most popular ARRL programs ever.

So what happens on January 1st when W1AW/something dis-appears from the airwaves and returns to its little brick building at 225 Main Street in Newington, Connecticut under the watchful portrait of The Old Man? We'll all have pileup withdrawal, that's what! I haven't heard of any follow-up program and I think the several million contacts will take some time to confirm, but still, mike-button thumbs, keyboard fingertips, and key-tapping digits will be eager for activity in 2015.

This is your opportunity to guide new HF operators in building on their success through award programs and contests. These are always available and with a year's worth of experience chasing W1AW, our new operators will find easy success as they fill their logs with DX, rare counties, and hours of contacts. Now is the time to schedule a late December or January club program about operating in contests or chasing awards like DXCC or CQ's WPX. Show them how to keep an envelope on file at the QSL bureau - and maybe even volunteer to sort a letter or two. If they're not on Logbook Of the World, why not explain how that works. Present a survey of some of the awards within their reach. The K1BV Awards Directory is free and lists more the 3,300 awards for accomplishments small, large, and...strange!

Those of us who have been around for a while tend to forget how thrilling it was to complete Worked All Continents. Or maybe that first time you experienced a solid over-the-pole or long-path opening during a contest, filling the log with call signs you never expected to hear, much less log. Hey, pass it on! Be a radiosport Elmer and have a ready answer when asked, "What is there to do now?"

73, Ward NØAX

Get Involved with SBARA

...come to a monthly meeting.

Our regular meetings take place the second Friday of the month at Hurricane Electric. Pre-Meeting social dinner begins at 6pm. Then at 7pm our meeting social begins with the monthly meeting starting at 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of whether you are a member. Bring a friend! Or if you're thinking about becoming a ham, come and learn about the hobby!

...become a member.

Membership is open to all licensed radio amateurs. The annual membership fee of \$35 help support the upkeep of our repeater, as well as participate in the Annual Field Day, plus other communication events.

...join a fox hunt.

On the Saturday of the month (around 7pm) organizes a good old fashioned fox hunt. The starting point is in Fremont, Ca.

...take a VE test.

VE testing is scheduled throughout the year on the second Saturday of the month on even months and on the second Tuesday of the month. Details are in this issue of the Groundplane.

Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

SBARA

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association, is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!



*Are you looking for your favorite Repeater?
Here is information you can use!*

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5	600Khz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—223.900— 500Khz, PL 107.2	K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2	ARES Net Meeting— Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5
K6AIR—146.940—	

Time to dust off those Keys....

The Slow CW net is taking place
Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... —

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Meeting Location Second Friday of the Month

**Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.
The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600
Mingle with your fellow SBARA members!**

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

November Elections of Board Members!!!

November 14th, 2014 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC– November 8th @ 9:30am at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact: Greg** at wy6pradio@gmail.com \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Additional information is described at Website, www.sbara.org

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
P.O. Box 8401
Fremont, Ca.

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